

CLAIMS:

1. A cutting or crushing implement comprising:

a plurality of sets of jaws, each set of jaws including opposing upper and lower jaws which are positioned side by side and are pivotable about and displaced along a common axis,

wherein adjacent upper and/or lower jaws are displaced relative to one another about said axis so that when operated the sets of jaws are together adapted to cut or crush a single length of material at a plurality of separate points along the length of said material, and whereby a single actuation of said implement is adapted to cause each of said sets of jaws to at least partially close in sequence.

2. A crushing or cutting implement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the consecutive closing of adjacent sets of jaws places a first set of jaws in a cutting or crushing configuration and a second immediately adjacent set of jaws in a substantially clamping configuration.

3. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said sets of jaws are adapted to pivot closed to complete a cutting, crushing or shearing operation.

4. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a single actuation of the implement is capable of causing all of the sets of jaws to close.

5. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is configured to be actuated through the operation of a hydraulic ram associated with machinery to which the implement is attached.

6. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sets of jaws are all adapted to pivot about a single common axis to at least partially close.

7. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 6 wherein one jaw from each set of jaws is fixed relative to a common pivot axis
8. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of the jaws fixed relative to the common pivot axis are fixed at a different angle about the axis
- 5 9. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each set of jaws is formed by two opposing jaws elements which are adapted to move together to cut, crush, crack or shear a length of material.
- 10 10. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plurality of sets of jaws are adapted to each execute a separate cut through a length of material in a single actuation of the implement.
11. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the sets of jaws are adapted to close at separate positions along the length of the material.
12. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further including a jaw displacement system adapted to modify the distance between adjacent jaws.
- 15 13. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each jaw set is formed from two opposed V-shaped jaw elements.
14. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each jaw includes at least one blade, wherein each blade incorporates a leading edge.
- 20 15. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 14, wherein the leading edge of each blade is oriented opposite to a leading edge of an immediately adjacent jaw's blade or blades.

16. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is configured to connect to machinery adapted to operate the implement.
17. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is adapted to connect to the actuator arm of an excavator.
- 5 18. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which are adapted to cut, crush, crack or shear a variety of different types of material.
19. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which includes a driving ram adapted to operate in conjunction with the excavator to pivot top portions of the sets of jaws about a single common axis to close the jaws and complete
10 a cutting operation.
20. A cutting or crushing implement substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings and/or examples.